

A

REVIEW

OF THE

S T A T E

OF THE

ENGLISH NATION.

Tuesday, March 4. 1707.

AND why don't you argue for a Peace with *Philip V.* too in *Spain*, says one now, upon reading my Motion of restoring the Duke of *Bavaria*?

Why truly, Gentlemen, I am for beating the *French* Interest by all possible Methods, and above all by those bloodless Encounters of Policies and Treaties, in which the *French* themselves have been really too hard for all the World; and on the Management of which they built their present Grandeur.

But as to *Philip V.* the Case differs exceedingly, and two Capital Cases make it absolutely necessary to carry that Case on at all Hazards.

1st. That his Title to the Possession is false, and the Possession usurp'd.

2^{dly}. It is impossible, that *France* should possess *Spain*; by impossible, I mean, incon-

sistent with the Safety of the Confederacy, either with Respect to Strength or to Trade; and therefore I am of the Opinion, this War can never end, till *Philip V.* abdicates the Crown of *Spain*, or is beaten out by Force.

I must own, when it was talk'd of this Winter, that the King of *France* had offer'd for his Grandson *Philip V.* that he should quit the *Spanish* Monarchy, and be content with *Naples*: I say, I must confess, I was for taking it at the Word; for as *Naples* is but a small Equivalent for such a Case, and the Exchange would not be difficult; so the Notions of the *French* Interest in *Naples* being destructive to our *Levant Trade*, I lay no Weight upon.

The Trade to the *Levant* depends upon the Command of the Sea, the *French* are strong already in the *Mediterranean*, having
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the Port of *Toulon* for their Naval Strength—And this will receive little or no Addition from the *Neapolitan* Conjunction, whose whole Force consists in a few Gallies, which the *French* have no Want of—On the other hand, the whole Kingdom of *Naples* has not any Harbour for a Fleet, neither can a Squadron of *French* Men of War take up their Station there; so that the Naval Strength of *France* would receive no considerable Addition from the Conjunction of *Naples*.

From these Considerations I cannot help saying, I wish the War in *Spain* was over, at the Expence of giving the Kingdom of *Naples* to *Philip V.*

If the *French* make such an Offer, and it be refus'd, then to me it follows; that the War is carried on singly for the Kingdom of *Naples*, and I shall not offend any body in saying, that the Kingdom is not worth the 20th Part of the Blood and Treasure likely to be expended in the Quarrel; 'tis a Trifle in its self, compar'd to the rest of the *Spanish* Monarchy, and I cannot think, any body would plead for the carrying on a War, so bloody, so expensive, and so in it self liable to Disaster, as the War in *Spain*, for the bare maintaining the Appendix of that effeminate Nation.

Again, 'tis a Nation remote and independent; 'tis a Country surrounded by the Sea, except on the Side where it adjoins to the Dominions of *Tuscany* and the Pope; 'tis not a Place, from whence the *French* can form any Encroachments or Invasions on their Neighbours, they cannot fall out here about Limits and Dependencies; there will be no proper Objects here for the Ambition and customary Violences; nor can this little King of *Naples* receive any considerable Sup-

plies immediately from *France* for any Enterprize, but what must be by Sea, and consequently be open, and give Warning to the World.

I do not say the *French* King has offer'd this Preliminary, but I may say, I wish there were no other Obstructions in the Way of a general Peace, and that all the rest of the *Spanish* Monarchy were surrendered to the Confederates, or put into the Possession of King *Charles III.* On that Condition I should think it a very cheap Purchase, and as a great General's Maxim was, when the Enemy retreats to make them a Silver Bridge to go upon; I should think the Kingdom of *Naples* a very cheap Sacrifice to the inexpressible Blessing of Peace.

I know some tell us, the War is at an End, *France* is reduc'd, his Power broke, and that one Campaign more will make him disgorge *Spain*, *Naples*, and every thing else—I heartily wish it may be true—But as it was *Cæsar's* Rule, never to despise an Enemy, so I cannot think *France* an Enemy to be despis'd. Security in War is the most certain Fore-runner of Disaster, and I would not run faster at home, than our Armies can do abroad—The late Turn of Affairs in *Spain* is no small Signal to us, that nothing can be yet certain in those Affairs; if I were sure there could be no Disaster on the *Rhine* or *Danube*, no *Gothick* Inundation, no early Surprise on the unprovided Empire, I should believe something more of it, than yet I can be perswaded to: But this I am sure, that to bring off potent Branches of the *French* Power, such as these of *Bavaria* and *Spain*, of which I have been discouraging, is the direst, the softest, the cheapest, and the most lasting Method of closing happily this furious War.

MISCELLANEA.

I Have been showing, that the Easiness of the Poors obtaining Employment in *England* makes it more reasonable to make Laws to oblige them to work, than to find it for them; and how to do this also is not at all remote from the Proposal.

I am not forward to put my self upon Projects, or make Schemes; but am ever listening to see the Pretenders to these things oblige the World with their Demonstration.

The former Houses of Commons gave all possible Encouragement to such as could offer, or but pretend to offer, at this needful thing; but the imperfect Essays of several, *whether for private or publick Benefit, I do not attempt to determine*, which have since been made, and which have obtain'd the Powers and Conditions they have desir'd, have by all their Effects demonstrated the Weakness of their Design; and that they understood not the Disease, or knew not the proper Cure for it.

And having survey'd, not the Necessity of a new Act of Parliament, but the Contents of the Act which has been propos'd as a Remedy in this Case; I cannot but offer my Objections against the Sufficiency of the Proposal, and leave it to the Consideration of all Men.

I humbly hope, the learned Gentleman under whose Direction this Law is now to proceed, and by whose Order it has been formerly printed, will not think himself personally concern'd in this Case; his Endeavours to promote so good a Work, as the Relief, Employment and Settlement of the Poor, merit the Thanks and Acknowledgment of the whole Nation, and no Man shall be more ready to pay his Share of that Debt to him, than my self. But if his Scheme happen to be something superficial, if he comes in among the Number of those, who have not search'd this Wound to the Bottom; if the Methods propos'd are not such, as will answer his own Designs or the Nations, I cannot think my self oblig'd to dispense with

my Duty to the publick Good, to preserve a personal Value for his Judgment, tho' the Gentleman's Merit be extraordinary.

Wherefore, as in all the Schemes I have seen laid for the Poor, and in this in particular, the general Thought of the Proposers runs upon the employing the Poor by Work-Houses, Corporations, Houses of Correction, and the like; and that I think it plain to be seen, that these Proposals come vastly short of the main Design. This is offer'd as well to make good what is before alludg'd, *Viz.* That all these Work-houses, &c. tend to the Encrease, and not the Relief of the Poor; as to make a Tender of mean, plain, and I hope, rational Proposals, for the more effectual Cure of this grand Disease.

In order to proceed to this great Challenge, I could be glad the Bills already pass'd might be review'd, the Practice of our Corporation-Houses, and the Contents of the now propos'd Act, examin'd.

In all these it will appear, that the Method, chiefly propos'd for the Employment of our Poor, is by setting them to work on the several Manufactures mention'd in a former Paper, as *Spinning, Weaving*, and manufacturing our *English Wool*.

All our Work-houses lately erected in *England* are in general thus employ'd; for which, without enumerating Particulars, I humbly appeal to the Knowledge of the several Members of these Work-houses, in their respective Towns, where such Corporations have been erected.

In the intended Act, printed sometime since, with which perhaps the present may somewhat correspond, it appears, *That in Order to set the Poor to work, it shall be lawful for the Overseers of every Town, or of one or more Towns joyn'd together, to occupy any Trade, Mystery, &c. and raise Stocks for the carrying them on, for the setting the Poor to work, and for purchasing Wool, Iron, Hemp, Flax, Thread, or other Materials for that Purpose. Vide, The Act publish'd by Sir H. ——— M. ———.*

And

And that Charity given so and so, and not exceeding 200 *l. per Annum* for this Purpose, shall be incorporated of course for these Ends,

In order now to come to the Case in Hand, it is necessary to premise, that the thing now in Debate is not the Poor of this or that particular Town. The House of Commons are acting like themselves, as they are Representatives of all the Commons in *England*, 'tis the Care of all the Poor in *England* that lies before them, not of this or that particular Body of the Poor.

In Proportion to this great Work I am to be understood, that these Work houses, Houses of Correction and Stocks to employ the Poor, may be granted to lessen the Poor in this or that particular Part of *England*; and we are particularly told of that at *Bristol*, that it has been such a Terror to the Beggars, that none of the Strouling Crew will come near the City. But all this allow'd in general, 'twill be felt in the main, and the End will be an Encrease to our Poor.

1. The Manufactures, that these Gentlemen employ the Poor upon, are all such as are before exercis'd in *England*.

2. They are such as are mannag'd to a full Extent, and the present Accidents of War and foreign Interruption of Trade consider'd, rather beyond the Vent of them, than under it.

Suppose now a Work-house for Employment of Poor Children sets them to Spinning of Worsted—For every Skain of Worsted these poor Children spin, there must be a Skain the less spun by some poor Family or Person that spun it before. Suppose the Manu'acture of making Bays be erected in *Bishopsgate street*, unless the Maker of these Bays can at the same time find out a Trade or Consumption for more Bays than were made before, for every Piece of Bays so made in *London*, there must be a Piece the less made at *Colchester*.

I appeal to all the World, what this may be call'd, and with Submission I think, it is nothing at all to the employing the Poor; since 'tis only transporting the Manufacture from *Colchester* to *London*, and taking the Bread out of the Mouths of the Poor of *Essex*, to put it into the Mouths of the Poor of *Middlesex*; of which more hereafter.

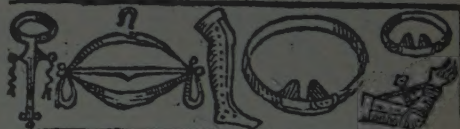
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